



PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

United States Department of Agriculture • Washington, DC
Idaho Field Office • PO Box 1699 • Boise, Idaho 83701
1-800-691-9987 • www.usda.gov/nass/



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Media Contact: Bill Meyer, Tel # (208) 334-1507
nass-id@nass.usda.gov

January Farm Labor

For the Mountain I Region of the U.S. (Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming), there were 17,000 hired workers on farms and ranches during the week of January 8-14, 2006, up 5,000 from a year ago. According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, hired workers worked an average of 35.9 hours during the survey week at an average wage of \$8.99 per hour, down 77 cents from last year.

There were 796,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of January 8-14, 2006, up 3 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 616,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 180,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.11 per hour during the January 2006 reference week, up 33 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$9.15 per hour, up 44 cents from last January, while livestock workers earned \$9.25 per hour compared with \$9.20 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$9.19 per hour, was up 29 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 38.2 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up 3 percent from a year ago.

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